GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:570
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
SEEDS ACT
ANANT GANGARAM GEETE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive Seeds Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.570 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26.04.2001.

(a) to (c): The Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive revision of the Seeds Act, 1966. This is necessitated by far-reaching changes that have taken place in the national economic and agriculture scenario and in the international environmental since the enactment of the existing seeds legislation. Moreover special thrust is proposed to be given to production of good quality seed in order to meet the food production targets of the future.

Salient features of the proposed legislation are given below:-

- Establishment of National Seeds Board is proposed in the place of Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board.

- Seed of any kind or variety for the purpose of sowing or planting will be sold in the country only if the said kind or variety has been registered by the National Seeds Board as per the criteria prescribed.

- The Government will have the right to exclude certain kind or varieties from registration to protect public order or public morality or human, animal and plant life and health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment.

- National Seeds Board will specify minimum standards on germination, genetic and physical purity with respect to any seed of a registered kind or variety.

- The mark or label on the seed consignment will indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum standards, as specified.

- For regulating sale of seeds, no person or dealer will be allowed to carry on the business of selling or supplying any seed which is not of a registered kind/variety.

- Farmers will be exempted from the requirement to register their kinds or varieties.

- National Seeds Board or the State Government may accredit individuals or organizations to carry out certification, including self-certification on fulfillment of criteria prescribed by the Board.

- All seed processing units will require to be registered and to maintain minimum specifications.

- Import of seed for sale shall be permitted only of registered varieties. Registration of such varieties shall be granted on the basis of trials conducted for minimum period of 3 seasons in India.

- Any person intending to import seed or planting material will declare that such material is, or is not, as the case may be, of transgenic character.

- Seed or planting material of transgenic nature will have to carry a declaration on their label to this effect.

- A kind or variety shall not be registered, or imported, if it contains any potentially harmful technology (such as `terminator technology`).